



## **WORLD EARTH DAY DISTRICT 105W LITTER PICK.**

Many clubs in across our District already organise litter picks and have picks planned for World Earth Day or during the following week. The information below is therefore aimed to clubs taking on a litter pick for the first time. If you have already done litter picks in the past then there may be some things you hadn't thought of.

Please let District Environment Officer, Lion Rachel Viles (Calne) and District Governor Sally know the date of your Litter Pick as soon as it is arranged. We can then get this information in the April District Update and use when contacting the press. If you take photographs on the day please let us have some to help promote Lions.

### **WHY DO A LITTER PICK?**

- The Environment has been part of Lions International policy since October 1972 when it was stated that "Lions Clubs International, recognizing the profound impact of man's activity on the inter-relations of all components of the natural environment, ..... declares that it is the continuing policy of Lions Clubs International to foster and promote the general welfare; to help create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfil the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations of mankind".
- Unless we look after our own communities' environments, and encourage others in the wider world to do the same, our successors will have a much poorer place to live in.
- A Litter Pick is an excellent way to celebrate World Earth Day which is on Monday 22nd April 2019. This is actually Easter Monday but some clubs will have activities planned for then so the Litter Pick will be from Monday 22nd through to Sunday 28th April.
- A Litter Pick is a relatively easy project to carry out.
- It is a Service activity and should be reported as such.
- If reported well, it can increase awareness of your club and Lions in general.
- It could increase your club's membership.

## HOW TO ORGANISE A LITTER PICK

### DO:

- Survey your community and choose an area which is well used and has an accumulation of litter. In such areas you are really providing a service and you will get people observing what you are doing.
- Wear gloves and use litter pickers.
- Contact your local Council to inform them of your intentions.
- Ask your local Council if they can supply litter pickers, bags and gloves. If they are unable to do so then supply your own.
- Invite youth clubs, organisations such as Scouts and Guides, Youth Clubs and schools to help you. This will help to make them more litter conscious in the future. Providing free HIVIZ tabards to them, complete with lion logo, could be a way of achieving this.
- Advertise your litter pick and ask for volunteers to come along to help.
- Suggest that this could be a way into Young Leaders in Service for your younger volunteers.
- Report fly tipping to your local council. It is their job, not Lions, to clear this up and prevent it happening.
- Report what you have done to your local press, include in press reports that this is happening across the whole of District 105W, to your District Environment Officer and to LCI via your monthly activity report.
- After the event either provide refreshments or find somewhere to enjoy a cuppa or a drink. This will help to make the occasion more fun and allow you to talk to your non Lion helpers.

## **DON'T:**

- Tamper with the litter, or think of taking it home for your own use, if something appears to be new. You do not know who has dropped the litter!
- Confront people who drop litter. This can lead to arguments. Let your actions show them the errors of their ways.
- Collect along a major road. It can be dangerous and the councils do pick up litter from time to time.
- Put yourselves in any danger such as collecting from steep banks which could be slippery.

## **IN CONCLUSION.**

Some will not immediately think of this as a Lions activity and objections are often raised such as:

- “I pay my taxes for the council to do this”
- “I don't want to catch AIDS from being pricked by discarded needles”
- “I'm too old to scramble through the brambles”
- “It's not my job to clean up after ungrateful yobbo's”
- And what could be worse than picking up litter only to see someone drop some more in front of you.

However I would like this to be a District wide activity with as many clubs as possible undertaking a Litter Pick during the week commencing 22nd April 2019. If it is reported properly then it can be seen as a major Lions activity to improve our environment.

If this is your first litter pick consider carrying out further picks during the year. It can be a very worthwhile activity as well as helping your own community.

Thank you for getting involved  
DG Lion Sally

My thanks to PDG Dave Wheeler and PDG Judith Goodchild MD Environmental Officer 2018-2019 for this document.